A bill to approve “An Amendment to Enact SAFE Reform”
ASSU-W2014-5

Authors:
Justine Moore, ASSU Financial Analyst
Olivia Moore, ASSU Financial Analyst
Viraj Bindra, ASSU Executive Cabinet
Dan Ashton, ASSU President
Billy Gallagher, ASSU Vice President
Stephen Trusheim, ASSU Assistant Financial Manager

Submitted for Consideration:
February 18, 2014 to the Undergraduate Senate
February 19, 2014 to the Graduate Student Council

Action requested: ⅔ approval of each legislative body

WHEREAS, SAFE Reform is a reform affecting the undergraduate funding system that reduces the student fee, stabilizes the funding system, better utilizes every dollar paid to the ASSU, and provides equal opportunities for funding to student organizations; and

WHEREAS, SAFE Reform is the product of over nine months of collaborative effort between the ASSU Executive, financial leadership, Undergraduate Senate, Executive Cabinet; and

WHEREAS, SAFE Reform utilizes lessons learned from studying over twenty years of ASSU funding history and the funding systems of peer institutions; and

WHEREAS, SAFE Reform only affects the undergraduate funding system, and does not affect the graduate funding system; and

WHEREAS, the undergraduate students of Stanford University have the right to determine what fees they pay to the Association,

THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE ASSOCIATION:

THAT “An Amendment to Enact SAFE Reform” as described in the attached document is submitted to the undergraduate population for ratification on the ballot of the 2014 Spring Quarter General Election.
An Amendment to Enact SAFE Reform
Authors: Justine Moore, Olivia Moore, Viraj Bindra, Dan Ashton, Billy Gallagher, Stephen Trusheim

This measure is both a measure for initiative and an amendment to the ASSU Constitution. This measure affects Article V of the ASSU Constitution.

Population: Undergraduate students
Affected portions of the Constitution: Article V

We, the undergraduate students of Stanford University, hereby enact SAFE Reform in order to lower the student fee, better utilize every dollar paid to the ASSU, and provide a more effective funding system for student organizations. The new funding system enacted through SAFE Reform shall begin operating in the 2015-16 school year.

1. As described in the Constitutional Amendment Appendix, all portions Article V of the ASSU Constitution, “Finances,” that refer to undergraduate-only finances are struck. Those portions of the Article V text that apply to the Association as a whole are moved to the new Article VII. Text of Article V is replaced with replaced with Article V, “Graduate Student Finances,” as described in the Constitutional Amendment Appendix.
2. A new Article VI, “Undergraduate Student Finances,” is created, with the text as described in the Constitutional Amendment Appendix.
3. A new Article VII, “Association Finances”, is created with the text as described in the Constitutional Amendment Appendix.
4. The remaining sections of the Constitution are renumbered.
5. We enact the Undergraduate Student Activities Fee as described in the Undergraduate Student Activities Fee Appendix.
6. By initiative, the Funding Board By-laws described in the Funding Board By-laws Appendix are adopted. The relevant legislative bodies shall have the power to amend or repeal these bylaws pursuant to the relevant sections of the governing documents.
7. By initiative, the undergraduate students enact the Joint By-law changes described in the Joint By-laws Appendix. These bylaws shall go into effect upon approval by the Graduate Student Council. The relevant legislative bodies shall have the power to amend or repeal these bylaws pursuant to the relevant sections of the governing documents.
8. We order that the system here described shall take full effect on July 1, 2015, and the Association shall make all necessary preparations during the 2014-15 school year, including making such adjustments to other portions of the bylaws as are necessary to effect SAFE Reform, pursuant to the procedures of the governing documents. The amendments are effective and binding immediately, to the extent that they are necessary to prepare for the full implementation of the system. In the event of a dispute, the Constitutional Council shall have the power to determine which provisions of the Constitution are effective and binding prior to July 1, 2015.
9. By initiative, we order that existing General Fees and Buffer Fund reserves shall be
moved as described in the SAFE Reform documents.

10. By initiative, we approve the letter to the Provost and President written in the SAFE Letter Appendix.

Constitutional Amendment Appendix
See
https://docs.google.com/a/assu.stanford.edu/document/d/1ffxFZM32lpBpBeufspljpDTwAEuNBG8krBnAB_v6QK0/edit.

Undergraduate Student Activities Fee Appendix
See
https://docs.google.com/a/assu.stanford.edu/document/d/1q10hMCO9B-IVrdMuhzzQ5FmOugKD6t4fY0jTNU610E/edit.

Funding Board By-laws
See
https://docs.google.com/a/assu.stanford.edu/document/d/1_juW80pTo_7xYsZq6yIMLQwIlkxp5NID0PF8542xkg/edit.

Senate and Joint By-law Amendments
See
https://docs.google.com/a/assu.stanford.edu/document/d/1aSH5981yDyDUEm-gzmsVY3DS3CR6N7xk6PlvEi-XOWk/edit.

SAFE Letter Appendix

President Hennessy and Provost Etchemendy,

We, the undergraduate students of Stanford University, have recently enacted SAFE Reform, an effort that lowers the “Student Activities Fee” paid by every undergraduate by approximately $90 per student, per year. In aggregate, we have reduced the amount paid by undergraduates to the ASSU by approximately $810,000 per year.

We believe that a large part of these fees may currently be paid by financial aid derived from General Funds. To the extent that this effort has reduced the amount paid by General Funds to the ASSU fee, we ask that you re-budget those saved General Funds to student services that directly benefit undergraduates. We would like to create a joint committee comprised of ASSU representatives and appropriate University staff to identify the most impactful opportunities for redistributing any saved General Funds.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ashton
President, the Associated Students of Stanford University

On behalf of the undergraduate students of Stanford University, and approved by initiative in the 2014 Spring Quarter General Election.

[The President of the Association shall have the power to appropriately edit this letter, as long as the letter keeps in the intent of the letter approved here.]